THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" No such proposal is under consideration and it is not desirable that any allowance or honorarium should be paid to Honourary Magistrate."

SRI C. RAJAM RAMASAMI :—" May I know the powers that have been given to the Special Honorary Magistrates and Honorary Magistrates? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Honorary Magistrates sit in Benches. I think Special Honorary Magistrates sit singly trying more important cases and first-class cases."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I have with me 350 questions ready with answers. I want that all these questions should be answered so that I may place more questions before the House for answer. Hon. Members seem to be inclined to put more supplementary questions and in these forty minutes only five or six questions have been gone through. So I shall pass on to the next question."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" I would like to bring to your notice, Sir, that there are questions and questions. Questions of the nature of the present one are of major importance and relate to the entire State. They should be given more time than particular questions which concern a particular district or a constituency about which information is sought."

MR. SPEAKER :—" If a particular Member is interested in a particular district or constituency, it does not mean that the question is an unimportant one. Every question is important to the Member who puts it. I shall pass on to the next question."

Construction of an anicut across Tirur-Ponnani river.

* 557 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have any proposal to construct an anicut across Tirur-Ponnani river, South Malabar and a bund for Canolithodu near Koothai; and

" (*b*) The representation is under examination."

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (*a*) A representation has been received on the subject.

" (*b*) The representation is under examination."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" For want of a bund at Koothai, wet lands are destroyed by salt water. May I know whether the Government will take immediate steps to construct a bund near Koothai? "

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" A representation had come to us and that was examined. It was found that the scheme would be uneconomical and this fact was communicated to Mr. Kunhan

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with a suggestion that if any betterment contribution was forthcoming, the question would be considered again. Now, Mr. Kunhan has represented that people are willing to pay some contribution. Therefore, the matter is being looked into again."

Mobile medical vans for South Arcot district.

* 558 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government propose to purchase any mobile medical vans for the benefit of the rural parts of South Arcot district; and

(*b*) the cost of a mobile van and the number of villages that can be benefited by a van?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) No, Sir.

" (*b*) The cost of a mobile medical unit is as follows :—

Recurring—Staff, maintenance and running charges of van, etc.—Rs. 19,400 per annum.

Non-recurring—Cost of van, equipment and furniture—Rs. 16,800.

The mobile medical unit can serve ten villages within a radius of 10 miles of its base visiting each village three days in a week."

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" Is the Hon. the Minister aware that the comparative advantage that may be derived by the use of mobile vans will be much greater than the expenditure incurred on the purchase of these mobile vans? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" That is why, Sir, we are trying in the first instance to work the scheme with five mobile medical units. This is an experimental scheme and on its success depends its extension to other districts."

SRI K. PARTHASARATHY :—" In this year's Budget provision is made for the purchase of new mobile medical vans. How many such vans are proposed to be put into operation this year? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Five mobile medical units."

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN :—" In view of the large deficiency in the matter of hospitals in South Arcot district, may I ask whether the Government will try this experiment in the South Arcot district with one unit at least? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I have already stated that the suggestion will be considered in future."

SRI V. GOPALA GOUNDER :—" Has any request been made in this behalf either by the Collector of South Arcot or the District Medical Officer or by any other private individual? "